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# EDITORIAL

JOURNAL OF  
**THE ILLINOIS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
 Published Quarterly by the Society at Springfield, Illinois.

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Applications for membership in the Society may be sent to the Secretary of the Society, Mrs. Jessie Palmer Weber, Springfield, Illinois.

Membership Fee, One Dollar—Paid Annually.      Life Membership, \$25.00

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VOL. IX	OCTOBER, 1916.	No. 3.
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### THE STATE CENTENNIAL.

The plans for the approaching State Centennial are being carried on with vigor by the Centennial Commission.

Mr. Wallace Rice of Chicago, a noted poet and writer, has presented to the Commission a design for a Centennial banner. This must not be confused with the State flag, authorized by the Forty-ninth General Assembly, an account of which appeared in the July, 1916, number of the Journal. The Centennial banner has been designed especially for advertising the Centennial celebration, and can be used in many ways in which it would not be proper to use the Illinois State flag.

The Centennial banner can be made in bunting or other cheaper material, for which the design of the State flag is not suitable.

#### POSTER CONTEST.

The Centennial Commission has sent out notices asking for designs for a poster illustrating the history of the one hundred years of State progress. Prizes are offered for the best five posters submitted. The committee to award the prizes in the contest is to be composed of members of the State Art Commission and of the Centennial Commission. The contest will close April 15, 1917.

The work on the Centennial Memorial publication series is progressing well. Prof. C. W. Alvord of the University of Illinois is in general charge of the work. Prof. E. B. Greene is the chairman of the Publication Committee of the Centennial Commission.

General plans for the celebration are well under way.

Before many months the Commission will begin the publication of a bulletin or news letter, which will be issued monthly or semi-monthly until the close of the centennial year.

The State Board of Agriculture will co-operate with the Centennial Commission, and it is expected that there will be in connection with the State Fair of 1918 an exposition, which will show the history of agriculture, manufacturing and development along other lines of the State during the past one hundred years.

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#### REUNION AND PICNIC OF SANGAMON COUNTY OLD SETTLERS' ASSOCIATION, HELD AT CHATHAM AUGUST 9, 1916.

Sangamon County's Old "Snow Birds," a remnant spared in the ceaseless toll of years, gathered with the county's old settlers in Chatham Park for the annual picnic of the Old Settlers' Association. Americanism was the principal topic of the day.

The ranks of the veterans of the deep snow of 1830 are gradually thinning and only four were on the grounds. They were: Mrs. Martha Coons, aged 84 years, of Springfield; Mrs. Eliza Hatten, aged 84 years, of Chatham; William ("Uncle Bill") Carson, aged 86 years, of Loami, and Jeremiah King, aged 86 years, of Chatham.

As early as the coming of dawn Chatham residents were on the grounds, putting the finishing touches to their work of preparation. A huge speaker's stand was erected in the southeast corner of Chatham Park and was beautifully decorated with American flags.

"Americanism" was the keynote of the addresses.

The speakers of the day were the Hon. Ben. F. Caldwell of Chatham; secretary of the Settlers' Association, I. R. Diller; Bishop Osborne of Springfield, United States District Attor-

ney E. C. Knotts of Carlinville, Attorney John Barber of Springfield, Captain Hayden of Springfield, A. L. Converse of Springfield and E. C. Woodbury of Carlinville.

Many of the settlers brought their dinners with them and ate their lunches under the shade trees of Chatham Park. Others took advantage of the dinner which was being served by the Ladies' Aid Society of the Chatham Methodist Church.

At the speakers' stand lives were being lived over again. Aged veterans of the county recalled their youth. All listened attentively to the speakers, all cheered at references to the United States of America as the mightiest of all nations and stood with bowed heads as strains of the national anthem pealed out over the audience.

It was a great day for Chatham as well as for the old settlers. The settlers were well pleased with the entertainment that had been afforded them, and the Hon. Ben F. Caldwell, on behalf of the town of Chatham, received many compliments from the officials of the Old Settlers' Association and from the old settlers themselves.

The expression of praise from I. R. Diller, the secretary of the Old Settlers' Association, was: "May God spare our long lived lives in order that we may enjoy another old settlers' picnic in Chatham. The picnic today will be remembered by the old settlers as one of the best in the history of the association."

Mr. Diller spoke of the speakers' stand, which was erected by the residents of Chatham. He declared it was the best that he had ever stood on in the history of the annual picnic.

The Rev. Mr. Harney of Auburn was unable to take his place on the program. In his stead the Right Reverend Bishop Osborne of Springfield, Captain William H. Hayden of Springfield, Colonel W. T. Baker of Bolivia and A. L. Converse of Springfield spoke.

Captain Hayden was the first speaker.

"Although I am the oldest man on the ground," said Captain Hayden, "I am not the oldest settler."

Captain Hayden said he was 91 and had long been a resident of Sangamon County. He spoke very briefly and concluded his remarks with: "I am more than thankful that I have had my stay in Sangamon County."

Following Captain Hayden, Colonel W. T. Baker of Bolivia, Illinois, spoke. "How do you all do?" asked Colonel Baker, and the crowd, catching the hearty spirit of his 81 years, laughed with him. "I am no candidate," continued the colonel. I am no Democrat or Republican. I claim only to be an American citizen. My grandfathers fought in the Revolutionary War, and I think our family may fairly claim to be true Americans.

"I remember Springfield," continued Colonel Baker, lapsing into the reminiscences that the crowd seemed so to enjoy, "when it was not very like the Springfield of today. I remember distinctly seeing teams and wagons stuck in the mud around the public square. The mud holes were the most prominent feature of the landscape then.

"I was 5 years old the year of the big snows. We moved when they were waist deep. When the snow and ice went out in the spring the Sangamon river rose as it has never risen since. I used to know an old tree on its bank that for a long time bore a ring, high up on its trunk, that was cut in by the floating ice.

"I have seen the whole of the United States. I have twice ridden a mule to California, and there isn't twenty miles of habitable territory between here and the coast that I haven't slept on. During the time I was attached to the civil service during the Civil War I was in every State in the Union, and Illinois is the greatest of them all.

"Illinois has only one trouble. It is a State of extremes. If we could properly adjust the climate, so that it was neither too hot nor too cold, nor too wet nor too dry, I would want to go on living here forever.

"Abraham Lincoln," continued Colonel Baker, "was one of the men that helped to make Illinois great. First, he was one of the men who split her rails and hewed her logs. I often ate at Lincoln's house, he being a great chum of my father."

Bishop Osborne of Springfield was next introduced.

"While I am not an old settler of Sangamon County," said Bishop Osborne, "I believe that forty years in America have entitled me to call myself a well settled American. Over sixty years ago I made up my mind to come to America, and by the grace of God here I am.

"I like to think of those who were not born in America, but helped make the country great. The original settlers of Illinois had to come from somewhere else, and while we are here to honor the old settlers, let us honor all those who have been Americans in America and are Americans today. I feel safe in saying that there are no hyphens among the old settlers of Sangamon County.

"Everyone must be an American all through. I don't like these societies with Americans linked with something else. It is sufficient in America to belong to the one great society of the American nation.

"Give your lives and your whole hearts to the country that has taken you in," urged the bishop. "I am an old settler in America first, and after that a resident of Sangamon County, but America first.

"Let the old go and be heart and soul before man and God a good American citizen," concluded the bishop.

A. L. Converse of Springfield was the last speaker of the day. The subject of Mr. Converse's talk was "The New Things of the World."

"You gray-haired veterans do not realize the magic things that have been going on right under your noses in the past few years," Mr. Converse said. "First, it was the telegraph, then the telephone, and now they telegraph without any wires at all," declared Mr. Converse.

Mr. Converse urged the old settlers "to think more of the future and to follow the advice of Bishop Osborne and not look too much in the past."

Edward C. Knotts of Carlinville, United States District Attorney, delivered the first address of the afternoon, speaking on the subject, "Politics."

"I come before you," said Mr. Knotts, "not as United States District Attorney, but as a Sangamon County boy. And I intend to speak on the subject 'Politics' not from the partisan point of view. I shall leave the politicians out of my address. I will not even mention the eighteen candidates for coroner in this county.

"I shall speak on politics as they have contributed to the greatness in Sangamon County and the State of Illinois," he continued. "The exploitation of the land and resources of Illinois, great as the achievement was, comes to its fullest

glory as an accessory process to the development of a broad and great government that evolved in Illinois, with Sangamon County as its center.

"The political problems of the pioneer," said Mr. Knotts, "were much the same as those we contend with today. The recent activity of muck rakers has led many people to believe that corruption and misgovernment were modern problems. Rather, they are the most ancient problems of government. The old settlers fought as much as we must fight today. The fights in the early days of Illinois were as earnest and fierce as the old boys could make them. And out of their political activities came the present government, which is honest and right, for the pioneers in forming our political institutions, built broadly and built well."

Mr. Knotts then narrated incidents of the early history of Illinois, illustrating the problems of the pioneers. One of these, which pleased the crowd immensely, was the tale of William P. Foster, one of the judges of the first Supreme Court of Illinois.

William P. Foster, it seems, had been a resident of Illinois but three months when the Legislature appointed him one of the four judges of the first Supreme Court. By the next fall Foster had skipped the country, taking the court fees with him.

"But the men of those days were not discouraged by a single failure," said Mr. Knotts, "but of the incident and the disappearance of Foster they modeled the present Supreme Court, making it not an appointive body, to be elected or removed by the Legislature, but a body elected by the people of the State."

Another story, which pleased the crowd, was that of the Shawneetown bank. After the failure of the Shawneetown bank, a State institution, the committee appointed to investigate reported that they had found nothing in the bank but plenty of good liquor and sugar to sweeten it with.

"But the pioneer was not dismayed," said Mr. Knotts, "he was used to learning from his mistakes. He knew that he had to combat the efforts of dishonest people from many States and counties who flocked to Illinois in the early days. But he overcame them and to his efforts we owe our present government."



"There is no reason to be alarmed, nor to be soured by our present difficulties," continued Mr. Knotts. "Our government in the larger sense is better than ever before. The shameful things are the exceptions. But out of these we will work our salvation, by profiting by our mistakes. The solution is not in attacking our form of government, but seeking the remedy for existing evils. As the pioneer did, we must face our problems calmly and dispassionately. If the old settlers had grown discontented over the Shawneetown bank and the disappearance of Foster, our political government would have ceased.

"The government in general," said Mr. Knotts, "reflects the attitude of the people. It is pretty much as they wish it to be. Reform can never come from the top, and it will never get far by such a method. It must come from the people up. People must look upon the bright side of things and remedy evils. This is the true philosophy for Illinois government and for American government.

"The little lapses we note in our Legislatures and officials are really nothing more than a bad cold in the tenure of our lives. They are soon overlooked and forgotten, but the goodness and greatness of our government goes on undisturbed.

"We have in Europe today a concrete example to prove that the American form of government is the best, strongest and most perfect form of government on the earth."

This remark occasioned a round of applause from the crowd, and a moment later Mr. Knotts was again heartily cheered when he said: "The government of the people, for the people and by the people, as Lincoln said, is the true philosophy of government. The people have the power in their hands. It is a struggle, and we will not enjoy good government unless the people work for it and work for it all the time."

In the latter part of his speech Mr. Knotts paused to congratulate the people of Sangamon County, the old settlers and the town of Chatham for their hospitality and the ability with which they accommodated the visitors.

"I am a boy of Sugar Creek, of Sangamon County," said Mr. Knotts. "I have been away a long time, longer than I wished to be, but Sangamon County and Sugar Creek and Chatham will always hold a place in my heart. In my boy-

hood Chatham was to me a wonder town; its doctors and grocers were miracle men. And I thank God that part of the glory of this community and of Sangamon County has remained with me through life.

"Because of the fact that I retain such glorious memories of this county, I almost hesitate to come back to it, lest some of the glamour be lost. Sugar Creek was rightly named. It reflects the sweetness of the people that have lived around it and the atmosphere in which they live."

FORMER CONGRESSMAN B. F. CALDWELL.

Hon. Ben F. Caldwell, former Congressman, addressed the old settlers. He paid a tribute to John G. Hammer, aged 96 years, and the only survivor of the Mexican War today in Sangamon County. Mr. Hammer resides in Loami township and was unable to be in attendance at the settlers' picnic. The topic of Mr. Caldwell's address was "America."

The veterans of the county clapped when Mr. Caldwell made the above remarks, but in a moment a hush fell over the large audience of "snow birds," some of whom "with their blood had cemented the South and the North in '65," bowed their heads as if ashamed of the actions of some of the aliens in America today.

Mr. Caldwell denounced acts of violence against the United States government and declared that "when a man took an oath of allegiance to America he should stand by it until his dying day."

"Some of you, perhaps," said Mr. Caldwell, "do not know that in Sangamon County there resides a man who fought for the honor of the American nation in the Mexican War. Only a few weeks ago my wife and myself had the honor to visit him. No, it was more than a visit, for we went there to pay homage to that remnant of the grand old army that fought on the Rio Grande.

"John G. Hammer is his name, and he resides in the town of Loami. He fought in the regiment of that famous colonel, Colonel E. D. Baker, who met his death during the Civil War at Balls Bluffs.

"You older bucks—you veterans of the Civil War, who with your blood cemented the States of the North and the South—remember that battle, don't you?" Mr. Caldwell said, turning

to a few Civil War veterans who were sitting on the speakers' platform.

"Sure we do," an old settler and veteran responded.

"Mr. Hammer is not only a survivor of the Mexican War, but he is also one of the oldest Odd Fellows in the State of Illinois. He has been a member of that organization for the past seventy-five years," he said.

Mr. Caldwell also paid a tribute to the State of Illinois. "If New York and Pennsylvania don't watch out," he said, "Illinois will soon rank as the first State in the Union and Chicago will be the largest city in the United States."

"When I look at that national emblem," Mr. Caldwell said, pointing to a large American flag which was hanging in front of the speakers' stand, "I imagine I see there one star larger than the others. This one star represents the great and glorious State of Illinois."

Mr. Caldwell paid a tribute to John Lochridge, a veteran of the Revolutionary War who is buried in the Chatham cemetery.

"He is dead—he has crossed the great divide," Mr. Caldwell said. "But his memory will always live with us."

Mr. Caldwell concluded his address with the remarks that it wasn't the political party that a man belonged to, but it is his loyalty to the American nation that makes the biggest impression.

"I thank God, not because I am a Democrat—though I am proud of it—but because I am an American citizen and an old settler."

#### ADDRESS OF MR. JOHN BARBER.

Attorney John Barber of Springfield told an audience at the old settlers' picnic that "if the United States of America is to maintain its place as the most powerful nation in the world after the European war, it must start now to study the cost of high living, and not the high cost of living." Cheers and applause greeted Attorney Barber's remarks as he related incidents of the past—those incidents that "made you old settlers sturdy and hale and pushed the United States of America to the fore, until today it ranks with the mightiest nations of the world."

"The son of today is not the son of yesterday," Mr. Barber said, "and I solemnly warn you old settlers, you veterans of an almost forgotten past, that the time has come when the change for the better must be made. Give your boys some of the hardships you yourself suffered. Give them something to do, some little task, even if it is only carrying a pile of bricks back and forward across the yard each day.

"The son of today gets up in a steam-heated room, puts one foot on a soft rug beside the bed, pulls on one sock, and then dozes away for a half hour or so.

"Is that what you did?" he queried. "No. That was not so in your case. I will tell you what you did. You got out of a bed with the temperature ranging around zero in your room. The cover near your head was covered with frost. On went one sock, then the other. It was a horse race to see which one would get down to the kitchen stove first. No, you didn't have to be called a dozen times before you responded.

"When you got down to the kitchen stove, maybe there was a fire and maybe there was not. Probably you had to build it. Then you reached for your boot. You found that it was not thawed out yet. But that did not matter. The boot went on your foot just the same. Then it was out to the barn and milk eight or nine cows, chop a little wood and feed the horses. By that time you were ready for breakfast. Why, do you old settlers know that you did more work before breakfast than the average son of today does all day? Well, you did, and when you came to that breakfast table you did not complain because the oat meal wasn't cooked right, nor you did not say, 'I never did like meat with fat on it.' No, you did not say, 'Aw, ma, what did you want to cook that for? You know I never like that.' I'll tell you what you did. You sat down and ate what was there. Then you went to a saw mill or a feed mill and put in a day's hard work.

"I'll tell you, old settlers, it is the cost of high living that you want to beware of. Did you ever stop to figure what the high living is costing the United States, or what it might cost when we are called upon to stand the test? It might cost it its honor and its dignity; it might cost it the shame of defeat.

“Make your sons work!” exclaimed the speaker. “Make them do something, so that they may be useful to the land in which they live.”

THE ROLL.

Old settlers of Sangamon County present at the annual picnic and their ages:

J. S. Smith.....	73	Mrs. Elizabeth Anderson.	87
J. F. Miller.....	85	Mrs. Stella Park.....	69
W. B. Shepherd.....	76	Mrs. John Graham.....	88
T. C. Smith.....	68	John Drendel.....	60
P. J. Herman.....	83	K. M. William.....	55
L. B. Herman.....	85	John Good.....	80
L. W. Brawner.....	73	J. B. Richardson.....	63
S. W. Constant.....	73	C. C. Greenwood.....	69
G. W. Constant.....	73	Jacob Young.....	72
A. P. Bice.....	73	N. A. Ingles.....	80
John Churchill.....	80	Theodore D. Reed.....	78
W. S. Carpenter.....	82	Enos Devault.....	76
J. M. Garland.....	81	J. M. Cantrall.....	75
Louis Zumbrook.....	76	Thomas M. Earnest.....	79
N. A. Nicholls.....	61	D. W. Lawlay.....	84
Isaac Diller.....	62	R. E. Strode.....	80
Mrs. E. B. Dyer.....	78	Dr. S. C. Hewitt.....	81
Mrs. Hattie Lanford.....	64	T. A. Drennan.....	66
Mrs. Sarah E. Decker....	67	Gordon Smith.....	62
Mrs. Mary E. Young.....	68	Morgan B. Pettus.....	82
Mrs. William Decker.....	76	R. C. Smith.....	83
L. H. Zumbrook.....	76	E. K. Vicars.....	82
Mrs. J. Stone.....	78	John F. Fagan.....	72
J. W. Carson.....	79	N. W. Crowder.....	83
Mrs. Edgar Megaha.....	67	W. P. Carson.....	86
Mrs. Amanda Good.....	70	Daniel Keller.....	84
Mrs. E. B. Dyer.....	78	W. S. Bumgardner.....	67
Mrs. Bell Fain.....	61	Jacob Daubert.....	72
Mrs. W. W. Hughes.....	53	Sanford Withrow.....	77
Mrs. J. Drandal.....	54	Mrs. Sanford Withrow...	75
Mrs. W. E. King.....	54	J. P. Alexander.....	79
Mrs. Charles Klor.....	65	J. E. Hurley.....	62
Mrs. S. G. Wade.....	76	John Evoy.....	70
Mrs. Amanda Davidson...	84	J. W. Lupton.....	67
Mrs. Jacob Leonard.....	70	Jacob Staley.....	62

J. M. Coley.....	78	W. N. Fowler.....	63
J. E. Dodd.....	78	L. M. Howard.....	68
A. L. Converse.....	74	Charles Dodd.....	68
W. W. Hooper.....	69	C. C. White.....	67
Ben F. Caldwell.....	68	W. H. Patton.....	66
Will O. Converse.....	70	J. B. Summers.....	72
Hezekiah Carr.....	80	Mrs. J. B. Summers.....	71
G. D. Boyd.....	77	J. W. Black.....	65
A. C. Colean.....	68	Philip Rupp.....	82
H. S. Magill, Sr.....	86	Mrs. E. B. Smith.....	83
Charles Post.....	81	James H. Maxwell.....	67
N. V. Taylor.....	74	S. E. Prather.....	66
R. M. Coe.....	61	Mrs. Angie McElfresh...	75
Irvin Barker.....	70	J. D. Sample.....	60
J. A. Foster.....	62	George E. Jones.....	77
I. W. Foster.....	63	J. W. Greenwood.....	82
James M. Evans.....	64	A. J. Gardner.....	60
J. S. Menkle.....	66	G. W. Matthews.....	61
James R. Mill.....	71	John McMarth.....	75
B. F. Drennan.....	72	B. F. Drennan.....	72
I. N. Ransom.....	71	William O'Connell.....	83
John Grant.....	71	Joseph Crystal.....	67
A. T. Gunnett.....	66	A. A. Sidles.....	65
Anson Fair.....	83	G. L. Clayton.....	65
Captain J. B. Inman.....	68	James W. Watkins.....	73
J. F. Gard.....	74	D. F. Lomelino.....	70
J. H. Abell.....	76	E. F. Lyons.....	67
J. W. Whitcomb.....	74	J. C. Drennan.....	74
Mrs. G. B. Boyd.....	68	C. F. Jeffreys.....	67
A. D. Young.....	80	J. T. Borple.....	78
Mrs. Della Young.....	77	John Canham.....	63
L. T. Drake.....	65	J. S. Kirk.....	73
Jacob Yockum.....	77	N. E. Kenney.....	68
Mrs. Susan Yockum.....	70	Jeremiah King.....	86
E. T. Jones.....	75	Thomas McMurray.....	70
W. T. Bean.....	72	T. M. Stevenson.....	75
T. M. Perkins.....	68	Conrad Sharp.....	83
R. M. Foster.....	68		

**CENTENNIAL OF THE FOUNDING OF FORT ARM-  
STRONG CELEBRATED BY THE PEOPLE OF  
ROCK ISLAND, MOLINE AND DAVENPORT.**

The people of the tri-cities held a celebration lasting a week—June 18-25—of the one hundredth anniversary of the founding of Fort Armstrong on the island of Rock Island, in which the various associations of the cities—patriotic, fraternal, commercial and educational—took part.

As is their custom on such patriotic occasions, the Daughters of the American Revolution took an active part.

A report by Mrs. Annette Gayer Kimball, the chairman of a joint committee of the chapters from the three cities, as to the part taken by the D. A. R., is hereby given:

As organizing regent of Fort Armstrong Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, and being chosen to represent the chapters of the tri-cities, viz.: Mary Little Deere Chapter of Moline, Fort Armstrong Chapter of Rock Island and Hannah Caldwell Chapter of Davenport, I am honored today by the invitation to participate in dedicating this block house, the original of which was built here one hundred years ago. One of the ideals for which the society of the Daughters of the American Revolution stands is to mark and preserve historic spots.

The corporeal existence of Fort Armstrong has long since passed into decay, but the patriotism which inspired it is immortal. Its erection was prompted by the duty of our government to protect its people, and inspired by their sacrifice and daring the government was impelled to offer the shield of its protection to those hardy pioneers who had dedicated their lives to the holding of this western empire.

Strategy dictated that the maximum protection would be given by choosing a site for a fort that commanded not only the north and south water highway, made famous by the voyages of the early French explorers, but also the east and west path of pressing civilization, that was soon to force a crossing of the Mississippi River. For centuries past, from remotest Asia, there had constantly been a movement of the races toward the setting sun. Like a glacier, in its relentless but momentarily imperceptible movement, it had crushed everything in its path. The scouts of this dauntless army of

civilization had already arrived at the crossing of the great waterway, indicating the point where governmental protection was most imperative.

At this crossing nature had planted an island differing from other islands of the great river, in that it had a rock formation and an elevation high above the river's floods.

The prophetic vision of our government foresaw on this island the natural crossing of the lines of travel, realized afterwards in the first bridge to span the Mississippi. It also foresaw on this island, in the more distant future, a site for its greatest arsenal, to furnish the means of defense for an entire nation. Such was the vision of a century.

The then imperative need was fulfilled by the erection on this rocky headland of Fort Armstrong.

Dominating the great river, and protecting its crossing, it stood a monument to our government's solicitous care for its pioneers.

Like a veritable Mecca, it drew to this locality the hardy settlers, intent on claiming this wilderness for civilization, intent on finding here an heritage for their children.

If you would see the results of their patriotism, of their privations, of their fortitude, of their intelligence, look around you. The great States of Illinois and Iowa added to the constellation of the Union are their monuments.

From my childhood's home on the bank of the river could be seen this rocky point, crowned by the frowning block houses of Fort Armstrong, a living witness of the protecting inspiration of our government, while under its palisades, unseen to our view, were the numerous tombstones, testifying to the devotion and sacrifice of its garrison.

But it is fitting that some material symbol of such loyalty should be erected, and with this impulse Fort Armstrong Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, built yonder stone monument, with bronze tablets suitably inscribed, as a tribute to the pioneers and the garrison which gave them protection.

And now on this centennial anniversary of the founding of Fort Armstrong we, the descendants of those hardy men and women, are dedicating a reproduction of the fort's most picturesque block house as a tribute to our country for its foster-



ing care; as a tribute to the devoted garrison, and as a tribute to the pioneers and their descendants.

Monuments such as our feeble hands have erected are but shadows that daily pass away. The patriotism of a united and devoted people is like the dazzling sun, blazing for eternity.

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### PRIZES FOR HISTORICAL ESSAYS ON DEKALB COUNTY HISTORY.

The circular which is here printed was issued some months ago and the prizes have been awarded.

A gentleman interested in DeKalb County offers prizes for original essays upon topics relating to the history of the county. The design is to obtain authentic record of the various phases of the history of the county before the opportunity for obtaining the information disappears forever. It is hoped to obtain the verified recollections of old settlers, accounts of historic occasions, descriptions of historic buildings and sites and the events connected therewith, accounts of "first" things, the stories of the founding and growth of churches and schools, etc., etc. It is the purpose to confine the essays to the history previous to 1865.

In order to interest the coming generation in the history of their surroundings, these prizes are open to the competition only of the pupils of the high schools and of the eighth grade of the elementary schools of the county.

The plan of the competition is as follows: The county will be divided into three divisions—(1) the Northern, including the towns of Franklin, Kingston, Genoa, South Grove, Mayfield and Sycamore; (2) the Central, including the towns of Malta, DeKalb, Cortland, Milan, Afton and Pierce; (3) the Southern, including the towns of Shabbona, Clinton, Squaw Grove, Paw Paw, Victor, Somonauk and Sandwich.

In each of the divisions there will be three groups of competitors—(1) third and fourth year high school pupils; (2) first and second year high school pupils; (3) eighth grade pupils.

For the competitors in each group in each division there will be three prizes—for the best essay, \$15.00; for the second in merit, \$8.00; for the third in merit, \$5.00. An additional prize

of \$10.00 will be given to the one in each group who is deemed the best essayist of that group in the county.

In the first group of competitors the essays should not be less than three thousand words in length; in the second group, not less than two thousand two hundred fifty words; in the third group, not less than fifteen hundred words.

In estimating the merit of essays, general appearance of manuscript, quality of style, and historic worth will be taken into consideration.

The illustration of the essays by original photographs of individuals, sites and objects is desirable, but these photographs will not be considered in estimating merit, unless in exceptional cases they become a necessary part of the historical evidence submitted.

The essays to be submitted for competition should be in the hands of the county superintendent of schools by May 1, 1916.

The committee reserves the right to publish any or all of the winning essays. The committee also reserves the right to reject any or all essays if they are not considered sufficiently meritorious.

Correspondence concerning the competition will receive the prompt attention of the committee. Committee:

W. W. COULTAS,  
County Superintendent of Schools,  
Sycamore, Illinois.

EDWARD C. PAGE,  
Professor of History, N. I. S. N. S.,  
DeKalb, Illinois.

Seventeen essays were submitted in competition. None was entered from the high schools of the central division. A number of the essays were highly commendable in mode of presentation and in subject matter. Some, of course, were more or less deficient in one respect or another, but were nevertheless worthy efforts. Only three were judged below the standard of what ought to be expected. A fourth one was of a quality to deserve a prize, but it was entirely too brief to be considered.

Upon the whole the contest was a satisfactory one. It is expected the prize offer will be renewed. If so, there ought to be several times seventeen essays submitted.

The award of the judges in the present contest follows:

Upper high school, southern division—Harold Dean Clark, senior in Hinckley high school, first prize; Clarence Lash, senior in Hinckley high school, second prize.

Lower high school, northern division—Irene Carlson, sophomore in Sycamore high school, first prize; Violet Strawn, sophomore in Kirkland high school, second prize.

Lower high school, southern division—No one was adjudged worthy of first prize. Two were of so nearly equal merit that both were deemed worthy of second place and the prize was divided between them. Blanche Shrader, freshman in Shabbona high school, and Gilbert Gates, freshman in Shabbona high school, second prize; Elliott Thompson, freshman in Shabbona high school, third prize.

Eighth grade, northern division—Amy B. Story, Parke school, Sycamore town, first prize; Thomas Adey, Gibson school, South Grove town, second prize; Ida Gitlitz, Sycamore public school, third prize.

Eighth grade, central division—Ethel Lanegran, Coltonville school, DeKalb town, first prize; Clarence Groves, Coltonville school, DeKalb town, second prize.

Eighth grade, southern division—No one was adjudged worthy of first or second prizes. Edwin Cunz, Suydam school, Victor town, third prize.

For the best essayist in the county in each group, the additional prizes of \$10.00 were awarded as follows: Upper high school, Harold Dean Clark, senior in Hinckley high school; lower high school, Irene Carlson, sophomore in Sycamore high school; eighth grade, Amy B. Story, Park school, Sycamore town.

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#### OGLE COUNTY SOLDIERS' MONUMENT DEDICATED SEPTEMBER 4, 1916.

One of the finest soldiers' memorials in the United States was dedicated at Oregon, Illinois, on Monday, September 4, 1916. The monument is in memory of the soldiers of Ogle County. In Ogle County lie buried soldiers of five wars.

The project was initiated five years ago, when Lorado Taft, the Chicago sculptor, suggested the desirability of perpetuating in bronze and marble the patriotic devotion of Ogle County's veterans. The county board at once appropriated the money for labor and materials and the work was begun.

Mr. Taft not only suggested the memorial, but made a gift to the county of his talent in designing, modeling and superintending the entire work.

Thus the Rock River valley is again indebted to the genius and community spirit of the Chicago artist colony, which has made its summer home at Oregon for seventeen years. For five years thousands of residents and travelers have enjoyed Mr. Taft's first gift to the Rock River valley—Black Hawk, one of the notable statues of the world.

The Ogle County soldiers' memorial is of the exedra type, introduced in this country in 1881 by St. Gaudens in his Admiral Farragut, Madison Square, New York. French's memorial to Richard M. Hunt, the architect, on the border of Central Park in New York, a monument notable for its happy union of sculpture and architecture, is along the same general plan as this work of Mr. Taft's.

The exedra is of white marble, 30 by 14 by 12 feet, with four steps cut in the base in front. On the left is an heroic figure of an infantryman, one of the boys in blue, looking north, longingly, toward home; on the right, the figure of a cavalryman, his face turned toward the south, with a challenge.

In the center, in outstanding bronze, is the figure of a woman representing the republic. She holds in either hand a wreath of laurel, symbolic of the triumph of the Union soldiers. Bronze tablets attached to the front and rear of the exedra contain the names of Ogle County's veterans, more than 3,000 in number.

The sculptor started with the names of the veterans as his central idea, then conceived the figure personifying the republic in the center, rising above and honoring the names, and a soldier on either side, guarding them. This idea is emphasized in the bronze band, just below the top of the exedra in front, on which are the words:

"Ogle County Honors Her Sons."

On a similar band in the rear is the inscription :

“To Her Brave Defenders Eternal Gratitude.”

As is usual in his work, Mr. Taft has avoided realism, preferring an idealistic treatment throughout.

Mr. Taft has employed in this monument his favorite material, marble from the quarries at Tate, Georgia. This marble was used by him in the Columbus memorial at Washington and in the Trotter memorial fountain at Bloomington, Illinois. He hopes to make use of it also in the Fountain of Time on the Midway.

# GIFTS OF BOOKS, LETTERS AND MANUSCRIPTS TO THE ILLINOIS STATE HISTORICAL LIBRARY AND SOCIETY.

The Directors of the Illinois State Historical Society and the Trustees of the Illinois State Historical Library acknowledge these gifts and thank the donors for them:

American Jewish Historical Society Publication No. 24. Baltimore, Md. 1916. 169 pp. 8 vo. Gift of the American Jewish Historical Society, New York City.

Black, George N. Collection of books from library of the late Hon. George N. Black. Gift of Mr. John W. Black and Mrs. George F. Stericker, Springfield, Ill., the son and daughter of Mr. Black.

Canada. *Annuaire De L'Universite Laval Cour L'annee Academique.* 1916-1917, No. 60. Quebec, 1916. 284 pp. and 55 pp. 8 vo. Imp. L'Action Sociale Limitee. Gift of Universite Laval, Quebec, Canada

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace Year Book for 1916. 203 pp. 8 vo. Washington, D. C., 1916. Press of Byron S. Adams. Gift of Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

Cleveland Public Library. Forty-seventh annual report of the Cleveland Public Library for the year 1915. 125 pp. 8 vo. Cleveland, Ohio, 1916. The Lezins Printing Co. Gift of the Cleveland Public Library, Cleveland, Ohio.

Colorado College Publications. General Series 88. *The Value of Poetry in the Schools.* 8 vo. Colorado Springs, Colo., 1916. Gift of Colorado College, Colorado Springs, Colo.

Daughters of the American Revolution, Geneseo, Ill., Chapter No. 465. Year Book, 1916-1917. Gift of Mrs. W. H. Hosford, Secy., Geneseo, Ill.

Daughters of the American Revolution. Illinois D. A. R. Twentieth Annual State Conference, Ottawa, Ill., March 29-30, 1916. Gift of Mrs. George A. Lawrence, Galesburg, Ill.

Daughters of the American Revolution. Mary Little Deere Chapter, D. A. R., Moline, Ill., 1915-1916, 1916-1917. Gift of Mrs. J. U. Barnard, Secy., Moline, Ill.

Dictionaries. School Dictionary, being a compendium of the latest and most improved dictionaries. By Saml. Johnson, Jr. 198 pp. New Haven, 1779. Edward O'Brien, printer. Gift of John Crocker Foote, Belvidere, Ill.

Genealogy. Ryerson Genealogy, by Albert Winslow Ryerson. 433 pp. 8 vo. Chicago, 1916. Privately printed. Gift of Edward L. Ryerson, Newberry Library, Chicago, Ill.

Georgia Historical Society. Annals for the year ending February 6, 1916, including report of the Telfair Academy of Arts and Sciences. Savannah, Ga., 1916. *The Morning News.* 67 pp. 8 vo. Gift of the Georgia Historical Society, Savannah, Ga.

Griggsville, Ill. Twenty-sixth annual announcement of the Griggsville Public Schools, 1916. Gift of James A. Farrand, Griggsville, Ill.

Hague Court Reports. Edited with an introduction by James Brown Scott. New York, 1916. Oxford Univ. Press. 664 pp. 8 vo. Gift of Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Washington, D. C.

Illinois. Eighty-six Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, thirtieth reunion, 1916. Gift of E. C. Silliman, Chenoa, Ill.

Illinois. Masonic Veteran Association. Proceedings of the thirtieth annual assembly. Chicago, 1915. Press of P. F. Pettibene & Co. 110 pp. 8 vo. Gift of John W. Hill, Secy., 928 N. LaSalle St., Chicago.

Illinois State Flag. Photograph of Illinois first State Flag, authorized by Senate Bill 446. Gift of Mrs. George A. Lawrence, Galesburg, Ill.

Illinois State Water Survey No. 12. Urbana, Ill., 1916. Univ. of Illinois, Pubs. 261 pp. 8 vo. Gift of the publishers.

Letters. Original letter, Alexander H. Stephens, dated Crawfordsville, Ind., Dec. 24, 1860, to William Epler, Omaha, Neb., Territory. Gift of Mr. William Epler, Lake Charles, La.

Indiana. Historic Pageant of St. Joseph County, Ind., Oct. 3-5, 1916, Springbrook Park, South Bend, Ind. 1916. 44 pp. 8 vo. Gift of Henry B. Roney, 1021 Leland Ave., Chicago.

Indiana. Historical Pageant, the Glorious Gateway of the West, Indiana's Centennial Celebration, Ft. Wayne, Ind., June, 1916. 70 pp. 8 vo. Gift of Rev. Royal W. Ennis, Hillsboro, Ill.

Long, G. Frank. Collection of books and pictures. Gift of G. Frank Long, Springfield, Ill.

Michigan State Library. The American Flag in prose, poetry and song. Second edition, Lansing, Mich., 1916. 70 pp. 8 vo. Gift of Michigan State Library, Lansing, Mich.

Maine Historical Society Collections. Documentary history of the State of Maine, containing the Baxter manuscripts. Vols. XXI, XIV, and 491 pp. 8 vo. Portland, Me., 1916. Gift of Maine Hist. Society, Portland, Me.

Maine Historical Society Collections. Documentary history of the State. Vol. XXII. Containing the Baxter manuscripts. XII and 482 pp. 8 vo. Portland, Me., 1916. Fred L. Tower Co. Gift of Maine Hist. Society, Portland, Me.

Mill Boy (newspaper), 1844. Pub. Hamilton, N. Y. One copy. Gift of John Crocker Foote, Belvidere, Ill.

Minnesota History Bulletin. Vol. 1, No. 7, August, 1916. 8 vo. St. Paul, Minn., 1916. Pub. Minn. Hist. Society. Gift of the society.

Moline, Ill. History of the Moline Fire Department. Gift of compiler, William A. Meese, Moline, Ill.

National Park Portfolio. Issued by Department of Interior. Gift of David E. Shanahan, 115 Dearborn St., Chicago, Ill.

New Hampshire Historical Society Manual. 61 pp. 8 vo. Gift of the publishers, New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, N. H.

New York Historical Society Collections, 1916. Minute Book of a Board of General Officers of the British Army in New York, 1781. 283 pp. 8 vo. New York, 1916. Printed for the Society. Gift of the New York Historical Society.

New York Historical Collections. Vol. I, Muster Rolls, 1775-1783; Vol. II, Muster Rolls, 1775-1783. Pub. by the N. Y. Hist. Society, 1916. Gift of the Society.

Railways. List of references on valuation of railways. Typewritten manuscripts. Gift of Bureau of Railway Economics, Washington, D. C.

Reynolds, John. Sketch of John Reynolds by Joseph Wallace. Manuscript. 35 pp. 8 vo. Gift of Dr. Otto L. Schmidt, Chicago, Ill.

St. Francis Academy, Joliet, Ill. Catalog of the Academy. 1916-1917. Gift of St. Francis Academy.

St. Louis Public Library. Annual Report, 1915-1916. 136 pp. 8 vo. Gift of St. Louis Public Library.

Snyder, Dr. J. F. Gift of three boxes historical material.

South Dakota Historical Collections. Vol. VIII, 1916. Pierre, S. D. State Pub. Co. 596 pp. 8 vo. Gift of Department of History, State of South Dakota, Pierre, S. D.

Stock. Early Maturing Market Toppers. "S. M. Standard Calves." 113 pp. Gift of David E. Shanahan, Chicago, Ill.

Sunday, Billy. A Trip to Billy Sunday. Poem by Frank Loren Davis. Rowland & Ives, Pubs. Gift of the author.

Sword carried by Captain William B. Seymour, Forty-fifth Illinois Infantry, in the Civil War. This sword is deposited in the Illinois State Historical Library by Dr. W. T. Moffet of Blue Mound, Ill.

Trinity College Historical Society, Durham, N. C. Publications, 12 volumes. Gift of the Society.

Waukarusa. Booklet arranged by John S. Hall. 32 pp. 8 vo. Rockford, Ill. Oscar F. Wilson Printing Co. Gift of Henry Mackay, Mt. Carroll, Ill.

Webster, Daniel. Souvenir program, unveiling of statue of Daniel Webster. 16 pp. 8 vo. Gift of John A. Callahan, A. M. Highlands Grammar School, Holyoke, Mass.